

Assistance Approved for Eddy County as well as Chaves, Lea, and Otero

Washington, DC – Today, Harry Teague urged agricultural producers in southern New Mexico who have been negatively impacted by a recent outbreak of alfalfa cutworm to seek disaster assistance offered by the USDA. Eligible farm operators can receive funding through emergency loans allocated by the Farm Service Agency (FSA) and the Supplemental Revenue Payments Program. This funding is intended to offset reduced revenues and economic losses resulting from a recent outbreak of alfalfa cutworm.

“Southern New Mexico’s farming and agriculture industries are essential and must be preserved in order to protect businesses, the jobs that families rely on, and our way of life,” said Harry Teague. “The recent weather changes and resulting damage from the alfalfa cutworm outbreak have put the viability of too many operations across southeastern New Mexico in jeopardy. I strongly encourage all farm owners and operators who have been affected to find out more about this vital emergency loan program.”

This designation of agricultural disaster is based on losses in farm production caused by several weather events in the past year that produced an outbreak of alfalfa cutworm in the region. It follows a review of Loss Assessment Reports submitted to the USDA, and the agency’s determination that the loss in agricultural production in the region was large enough to justify the designation of Eddy County as a natural disaster area. In addition, the counties of Chaves, Lea, and Otero, all of which border Eddy County, were designated contiguous disaster counties, making agricultural producers in those counties eligible for similar benefits.

Farmers who have been affected by the change in agricultural conditions have up to eight months from the time of the disaster declaration to apply for emergency financial assistance, and are encouraged to do so by contacting their local Farm Service Agency (FSA) office. Interested parties can visit www.fsa.usda.gov or call the New Mexico State Farm Service Agency at (505) 761-4900 for questions or to locate the nearest FSA office, and Congressman Teague's office can be reached at 1-888-9-TEAGUE or www.teague.house.gov

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